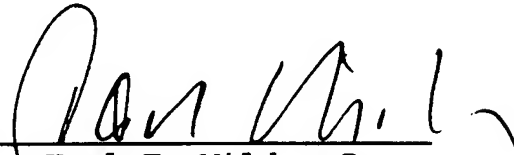


R E M A R K S

This preliminary amendment is being made to place the claims in proper form under U.S. Patent Practice. No new matter has been introduced.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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VERSION TO SHOW MARKINGS OF CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, after the title, insert the following heading and paragraph:

-- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a divisional application of Application Serial No. 09/600,841, filed July 24, 2000, now pending. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-12 and amend claims 13-21 to read as follows:

13. (Once Amended) [A] In a sheet-like member fixing device comprising a rod like male thread and a female thread, [characterized in that] the improvement wherein the male lead thread has a hook on its one end portion and is screwed into the female thread, [that] wherein the female thread is tightened after passing the male thread through a hole of a sheet-like member, and [that] wherein the sheet-like member is supported by sandwiching it between the hook and the female thread.

14. (Once Amended) The sheet-like member fixing device according to claim 13, [characterized in that] wherein the male thread is passed through the hole from its hook's side.

15. (Once Amended) The sheet-like member fixing device according to claim 14, [characterized in that] wherein the hook is substantially square to the male thread.

16. (Once Amended) The sheet-like member fixing device according to claim 15, [characterized in that] wherein the male thread is fixed in the direction substantially perpendicular to the hook while the hook is brought in close contact with the surface of the sheet-like member.

17. (Once Amended) The sheet-like member fixing device according to claim 15 [or 16, characterized in that] , wherein the hook points to one direction.

18. (Once Amended) The sheet-like member fixing device according to [any one of claims 15 to 17, characterized in that] claim 15, wherein the edge of the hook fixed in the direction substantially perpendicular to the male thread is beveled.

19. (Once Amended) The sheet-like member fixing device according to [any one of claims 13 to 18, characterized in that] claim 13, wherein a handle is provided to the other end of the male thread.

20. (Once Amended) The sheet-like member fixing device according to claim 19, [characterized in that] wherein the handle is shaped like a ring.

21. (Once Amended) The sheet-like member fixing device according to [any one of claims 13 to 20, characterized in that] claim 13, wherein the female thread can be screwed down by hand.